

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Deadly Israeli Raid on Pro-Palestinian Aid Ships Tests U.S. Loyalties

06/02/2010

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june10/israel_06-02.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What were the boats in the flotilla carrying?

2. Why does Israel blockade Gaza?

3. What are two different versions of what happened during the raid?

4. How did French President Sarkozy respond?

5. How did Egypt change its policies after the attack?

6. Who was on the boats?

7. Who financed the boats? Why is that important?

8. Name a similarity between Turkey and Israel. Why do they need each other?

9. What is the Turkish Parliament asking for as compensation?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Why is there so much tension around the blockade?

2. What do you think the Turkish Foreign Minister means by his quote: "It should not be seen like a choice between Turkey and Israel. No. It should be a choice between right and wrong. Between legal and illegal."?

3. Do you think Israel should or will apologize to Turkey? Why or why not?

4. The White House is in a tricky place with two allies, what would you do if you were president?

5. Some say that the United Nations is ineffectual because it cannot resolve these international crisis, do you agree or disagree, why?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.